

DONOVAN NICHOLS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Donovan Nichols for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Donovan Nichols is a 12th grader at Jefferson High and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Donovan Nichols is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Donovan Nichols for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

HONORING ROBERT F. JORDAN

HON. RANDY HULTGREN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of the House of Representatives to a momentous occasion, the 85th birthday of Mr. Robert F. Jordan, to be celebrated on May 25, 2012, and to recognize the work he has done, first as a United States diplomat for more than 36 years, and in retirement, as an integral part of the US-Asia Institute.

Mr. Robert F. Jordan was born and raised in Framingham, Massachusetts. He served overseas in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947 and then attended the University of Massachusetts, graduating in 1951. From 1951 to 1956 he was a high school teacher of Algebra and Spanish.

In 1956 he started a 36-year diplomatic career with the U.S. Information Agency, serving as the Public Affairs Officer and director of the United States Information Service in 11 countries in Asia, Europe and Latin America with responsibility for all U.S. government press and cultural exchange programs. Mr. Jordan learned four foreign languages—Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese. He was president of the Fulbright Commission in several countries and was also president of the Government of Ireland's scholarship board. While on a Washington tour he was assigned to USIA's inspection corps and conducted policy and public diplomacy inspections of American embassies in some 40 countries worldwide.

Mr. Jordan is the recipient of several meritorious and superior honor awards and performance pay awards from USIA, the Department of Defense and the Department of State. He also received the Order of Merit from the Government of Portugal.

Following retirement in 1992 Mr. Jordan was called back by both USIA and the Department of State to conduct policy inspections of some

20 embassies worldwide. Then from 1995 to 2001 he worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency handling the Spanish-speaking media on disasters around the country. All total during his career, he has honorably represented the United States in over 100 countries around the world.

In 1994–95 and then since 2007, Mr. Jordan has volunteered his time at the US-Asia Institute as a senior advisor and serving as Vice President of International and Government Affairs. In this role, he works closely with the Asian diplomatic community as well as with the U.S. Congress, and numerous delegations from Asia. He is committed to the mission and goals of the US-Asia Institute, promoting dialogue on international issues of common interest to the United States and Asian nations, whenever and however possible. In the course of his work, Mr. Jordan has led numerous delegations of Congressional staff to China and Singapore. He spent his 80th birthday on the Great Wall of China.

In his retirement, Mr. Jordan continues to work tirelessly to promote mutual understanding and communication between the U.S. and the countries and people of Asia. As he celebrates this latest milestone, we say thank you to Mr. Jordan for his sage counsel, his inimitable vision, his quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy, and his unwavering commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.

IN HONOR OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF FLORENCE LARIVIERE**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Florence LaRiviere, a passionate citizen activist responsible for creating our country's first urban national wildlife refuge. Without Florence, it is safe to say that thousands of acres of wetlands and salt ponds along the San Francisco Bay would have been destroyed and developed. The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in my Congressional District, is the result of her tireless commitment to preventing urban sprawl from taking over unspoiled natural area.

On May 10th, Florence is being rightly honored for her decades of environmental and community service with the National Wetlands Award from the Environmental Law Institute of Washington, DC. Although Florence is being honored now, at the age of 88, her work to preserve the Bay spans seven decades.

In the 1950's Florence would take her children to enjoy the Bay's natural marshes and wetlands. Even then, development was steadily encroaching on this fragile ecosystem and threatened its very survival. Marshes were being drained and filled and the Bay's health was in severe decline. Florence organized other concerned citizens and launched a battle to preserve the wetlands and restore the Bay. They took their fight to then Representative Don Edwards, who championed legislation to create the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge in 1972. She didn't stop there. In the 1980s, she established the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge and led the fight to expand the refuge by 20,000 acres.

After all these accomplishments, Florence LaRiviere still works to preserve and protect California's wetlands. In the last few years, I've been honored to work with Florence to restore the Eden Landing salt ponds along the Hayward Shoreline. Now, instead of sterile ponds, we have a thriving marsh where hundreds of bird species can be seen and the public can access the bay for hiking and kayaking.

The National Wetlands Awards are presented annually to individuals who have excelled in wetlands protection and is administered by the Environmental Law Institute and is supported by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Forest Service, and Federal Highway Administration. A committee of wetlands experts representing federal and state agencies, academia, conservation organizations, and the private sector selects the Award recipients.

Florence is well deserving of this award. Her work to create and preserve the refuge has produced enormous benefits. It has sustained an immense number of birds and endangered species. It has also brought awareness to the Bay Area of the value of wetlands, and vastly improved residents' quality of life by providing them with public spaces to escape from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Florence is an inspiration to all of us who care about passing on a healthy environment to future generations.

RECOGNIZING DOWNTOWN
WASHINGTON INC.**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Downtown Washington, Inc. On April 2, 2012, Downtown Washington was named a recipient of The Great American Main Street Award. The winners of this award are recognized for their exceptional accomplishments in revitalizing the nations' historic Main Street commercial district by using the National Trust's Main Street Four-Point Approach.

I ask that you join me in recognizing Downtown Washington, Inc. for its work to nurture and enhance its downtown area. A key part of Downtown Washington's success is due to the dedication and determination of Downtown Washington, Inc.'s board of directors and staff. With its outstanding leadership, the board of directors and staff have spearheaded the renovation of several historic buildings that have and will continue to attract fellow residents and visitors to the downtown area for years to come.

In addition, one of their top priorities is business retention, and Downtown Washington, Inc. works to make sure business owners have the latest information on grants and other incentives. Through their partnerships with the local chamber of commerce and city government, Downtown Washington, Inc. organizes many public events throughout the year, which truly help showcase the city's success.